

moths was less than half that of normal specimens, being about the size of the sycamore (*Acronicta aceris* L.). They were also very much darker than normal *quercifolia*. Incidentally, from some of these I obtained pairings, the larvae from which, after reaching a certain stage, hibernated in the usual manner and were then indistinguishable from those of the first brood that had behaved "normally".

The only difference in the treatment of all these larvae, was that the larvae which continued to feed and produce a second brood were in brown jars, and those that hibernated were in clear jars. All the jars were on the same shelf, with the brown ones being mixed in with the clear ones. — PAUL RIX, 56 Shingham, Beechamwell, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 8AY.

AN EARLY PLUSIA GAMMA L. IN EASTBOURNE. — I was surprised by the capture of a single freshly emerged *P. gamma* on the evening of the 7th January, 1978. But of more interest are the unusual weather conditions in which this insect must have been flying, max. 1°C., min. -3°C., a very cold night. I incline to the view that it is a native specimen but the possibility cannot be ruled out of migration. — M. HADLEY, Life Sciences, 1 Botany Building, Imperial College, London, S.W.7. [Compare this with the curiously early appearance of *Idaea seriata* Schrank also on the 7th January, as recorded in this issue by Col. Sterling. It would be most interesting to hear of any other abnormal occurrences about that time. — Editor]

LEPIDOPTERA IN SHROPSHIRE IN 1977. — What an unusual year we have had, but I gather that our experience in Shropshire has been pretty general. The early species, *Celastrina argiolus* L., *Callophrys rubi* L., *Boloria selene* D. & S. for example, were plentiful. There then followed a long gap when it seemed that everything had failed and finally the later-emergers appeared very late and not very numerous. Most blame seems to have been attributed to the wet June.

Personally speaking, moth-trapping has been disappointing, many, many species just not putting in an appearance at all. Matters improved towards the end of the season, the most notable species taken being *Eurois occulta* L. (one on 15.viii) and *Leucania vitellina* (one on 20.x). About 25th October I was given a live specimen of *Agrius convolvuli* L., a male slightly damaged and found at rest near the last of the nicotianas, at Leighton, near Ironbridge. — DAVID J. SMITH, "Curlews", Rosemary Way, Pontesbury, Salop, SY5 0RW.

DIACHRYSLA ORICHALCEA F. (SLENDER BURNISHED BRASS) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN EAST SUSSEX. — On the evening of 19th October, 1977, I took a fine specimen of *D. orichalcea* at m.v. light in my garden at Ringmer. This rare immigrant is apparently more frequently captured in the south-west, and there seem to be very few published records for south-east England. — PETER J. HODGE, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5HJ.